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**Commission on Sustainable Development**
**Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting**
New York, 23-27 February 2009
Agenda item 3
**Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting**

## Draft report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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# I. Organization of the session

## A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 23 to 27 February 2009 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/234 of 23 July 2007. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting held 10 meetings. Interactive discussions on the themes of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa were held at the 3rd to 8th meetings, from 24 to 26 February 2009. Interactive discussions addressing barriers and constraints facing small island developing States in the six thematic issues were held at the 2nd meeting, on 23 February 2009. Interactive discussions on the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation, relevant to the same themes were held at the 9th meeting, on 27 February 2009.

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Gerda Verburg (Netherlands), who made an introductory statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February 2009, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

4. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation relating to: agriculture (E/CN.17/2009/3); rural development (E/CN.17/2009/4); land (E/CN.17/2009/5); drought (E/CN.17/2009/6); desertification (E/CN.17/2009/7); Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8); and interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2009/9).

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Bangladesh (on behalf of the Least Developed Countries), Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), Oman (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Arab Group), Senegal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group), Canada, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Australia.

## B. Agenda and organization of work

6. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation:

(a) Agriculture;

(b) Rural development;

(c) Land;

(d) Drought;

(e) Desertification;

(f) Africa.

3. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

7. At the same meeting, it was agreed that the candidates for Vice-Chairpersons endorsed by the African States Group, Kaire Munionganda Mbuende (Namibia); the Eastern European States Group, Tania Raguz (Croatia); and the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, Ana Bianchi (Argentina); would act in that capacity during the Meeting until their formal election at the beginning of the Commission's seventeenth session. The Meeting was then informed that Vice-Chairperson-designate Ms. Raguz would also serve as Rapporteur of the seventeenth session of the Commission and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

## C. Proceedings of the session

8. Also at the 1st meeting, on 23 February, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman-designate, Mr. Mbuende (Namibia), on the outcome of the regional meeting on the theme "African agriculture in the 21st century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution", held in Windhoek on 9 and 10 February 2009.

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Javad Amin Mansour (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), on the outcome of the intersessional event on the theme "Capacity development workshop for improving agricultural productivity, water use efficiency and rural livelihoods", held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 January 2009.

10. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of the regional commissions, presented regional perspectives on policy options and possible actions relevant to the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, addressing the region-specific obstacles and constraints identified during the review year.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the representatives of major groups presented their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the six thematic issues, as contained in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa" (E/CN.17/2009/10). Statements were made by the representatives of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, on behalf of the women's sector; SustainUS, on behalf of the children and youth sector; Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, on behalf of the indigenous peoples' sector; Heifer International, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations sector; Local Governments for

Sustainability, on behalf of the local authorities' sector; the International Trade Union Confederation, on behalf of the workers and trade unions' sector; Croplife International, on behalf of the business and industry sector; the International Council for Science, on behalf of the scientific and technological community; and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, on behalf of the farming sector.

12. Also at the same meeting, an interactive panel discussion was held on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation in the areas of the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, relating to small island developing States. The panellists were Djaheezah Subratty (Ministry of Environment, Mauritius), Donovan Stanberry (Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica) and Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia (Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations). The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

13. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 24 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of agriculture. The panellists were Sara Scherr, founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of ECOagriculture Partners, and Norman T. Uphoff, Professor of Government and International Agriculture at Cornell University. The Vice-Chairperson-designate, Ms. Raguz, summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

14. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 24 and 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of rural development. The panellists were Tim Hanstad, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Development Institute; and Rosalud de la Rosa, founding Chair of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

15. Also at its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of land. The panellists were Harold Liversage, Land Tenure Adviser for the International Fund for Agricultural Development; John W. Bruce, head of the consulting firm, Land and Development Solutions International; and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

16. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of drought. The panellists were Constance L. Neely, Vice-President for Advocacy at Heifer International; and Jeff Herrick, a research scientist with the Jornada Experimental Range of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

17. At its 7th meeting, on 26 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of desertification. The panellists were Alemneh Dejene, Senior Officer of Sustainable Development Policy at the Natural Resource Management and

Environment Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of the Liaison Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

18. At its 8th meeting, on 26 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of Africa. The panellists were Kaddu Sebunya, Director of Programme for Technical Design at the African Wildlife Foundation; and Kobie Brand, Regional Director of ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability at the Africa secretariat. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

19. At its 9th meeting, on 27 February, the Meeting held an interactive discussion on policy options and possible actions to address barriers and constraints in relation to interlinkages among the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, as well as cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation. The panellists were Erick Fernandes, Adviser for Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank; Nnimmo Bassey, human/environmental rights activist and Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action; and Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Oxford University. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

## D. Attendance

20. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations and major groups also attended.

21. The list of participants of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting will be issued as document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/INF.1.

## E. Documentation

22. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: agriculture (E/CN.17/2009/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: rural development (E/CN.17/2009/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: land (E/CN.17/2009/5);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: drought (E/CN.17/2009/6);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: desertification (E/CN.17/2009/7);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2009/9);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa (E/CN.17/2009/10);

(i) Letter dated 15 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the statement of African Ministers emanating from the African ministerial retreat held at Glen Cove, New York, on 10 and 11 May 2008 (E/CN.17/2009/12);

## II. Chairman's draft negotiating document

[*To be completed*]

## III. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

23. At its __th meeting, on 27 February 2009, the Meeting had before it the draft report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/L.1.

24. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report and took note of the Chairman's draft negotiating document for transmittal to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventeenth session, to be held from 4 to 15 May 2009.